AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 26 with the following:

Figure 2: Predicted precursor structure and tissue expression of mouse miR-375. **(A)** RNA secondary structure prediction was performed using Mfold version 3.1 (SEQ. ID. NO. 31). The miRNA sequence is underlined. There is complete homology between mouse and human sequences. **(B)** Tissue expression of miR-375 and –376. Total RNA (30 μg) were isolated from mouse tissues for Northern blots and probed for the indicated miRNA. **(C)** Northern blots of total RNA (10μg) isolated from purified pancreatic islets, MIN6 cells and total pancreas. High expression levels were detected in mouse pancreatic islets. A tRNA probe was used as a loading control.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 24 with the following:

Figure 5: The miR-375 target site in the 3'UTR of Mtpn is responsible for inhibition of gene expression by miR-375 (SEQ. ID. No. 1). **(A)** Sequence of the target site in the 3'UTR of myotrophin inserted within the Renilla luciferase 3' UTR. The mutant construct (Mtpn-MUT) (SEQ. ID. NO. 70) is identical to the WT construct (Mtpn-WT) (SEQ. ID. NO. 69) except for five point mutations (bold) disrupting base-pairing at the 5' end of miR-375. **(B)** MIN6 cells were transiently transfected with either reporter construct in addition to 2'-O-methyl-oligoribonucleotides complementary to miR-375 (2'-O-methyl-375) or a control 2'-O- oligoribonucleotide (2'-O-methyl-GFP).